

Butterfly fauna of Patna (Bihar)¹

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Lists of butterflies from the Gangetic plains region of India are available for Delhi (Jandu 1942, 1943; Donahue 1966, 1967), Kanpur (Sevastopulo 1948), Lucknow (de Rhé-Philipe 1902, 1905) and Calcutta (de Nicéville 1885; Sevastopulo 1944). However, there appears to be no list of the butterflies occurring in the Gangetic plains of Bihar. This list is based on the butterflies taken at Patna, from localities inside the city, or from places around Patna falling within a c. 70 km radius. The collections are deposited at the Gangetic Plains Regional Station of the Zoological Survey of India, Patna.

In the list below, the total number of specimens collected (till 1972) are shown to indicate the status of abundance of that species in the area, and the months of collection are mentioned to indicate the dry or wet season form of the butterfly and/or the period of occurrence in the area. Recent literature has been followed for the identification and nomenclature of species dealt with.

Family DANAIDAE

Danaus chrysippus chrysippus (Linn.) The plain tiger

More than 60 specimens from Hajipur, Baikathpur (Fatwah), Barh, and Patna during all months.

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D. genutia (Cramer) The common tiger
19 specimens from Obra (Gaya) and from Patna during January, February, May, July and September.

D. limniace leopardus (But.) The blue tiger
One specimen collected from Biharsarif, during November.

Euploea core core (Cramer) The common Indian crow
14 specimens during July-October.

Family SATYRIDAE

Melanitis leda ismene (Cramer) The common evening brown
11 specimens from Maner, and Patna during October-December.

Mycalesis mineus polydecta (Cramer) The dark-brand bushbrown
8 specimens from Maner, Islampur, Hajipur, and Patna during July, September, November-December.

My. perseus tabitha (Fabr.) The common bushbrown
5 specimens during October-November.

Family NYMPHALIDAE

Ergolis merione tapestrina Moore The common castor
8 specimens from Hajipur, Maner, and Patna during January, March, April, August-September.

Hypolimnas bolina bolina (Linn.) The great eggfly

One specimen from Phulwarisarif during October.

H. misippus (Linn.) The danaid eggfly

6 specimens from Maner; and from Patna during September-October.

Phalanta phalantha phalantha (Drury) The common leopard

3 specimens from Maner; and from Patna, during April, September and December.

Precis almana almana (Linn.) The peacock pansy

More than 40 specimens collected from Chandwa (Arrah), Maner, Baikathpur (Fatwah); and Patna, during January-May and July-December.

P. hierta hierta (Fabr.) The yellow pansy

3 specimens from Hardinge Park, Patna during October.

P. lemonias vaisya (Fruhst.) The lemon pansy
25 specimens during March, April, July, October and December.

P. orithya swinhoei (Butler) The blue pansy
10 specimens from Chandwa (Arrah), Maner, Daniawan (Fatwah); and Patna, during January, March, May, August-November.

Vanessa cardui (Linn.) The painted lady

One specimen from Baikathpur (Fatwah), during March.

Family ACRAEIDAE

Acraea violae (Fabr.) The tawny coster

11 specimens collected from Koilwar, Maner, Daniawan (Fatwah), Baikathpur, Naubatpur; and Patna, during February-April, and August-September.

The FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA (Talbot 1947)

gives its habitat as Ceylon and Peninsular India only. On the basis of present material and few other earlier records, Varshney (1973) has extended its range to North India.

Family LYCAENIDAE

Catochrysops strabo strabo (Fabr.) The forget-me-not

One specimen from Maner, during January.

Euchrysops cnejus (Fabr.) The gram blue

6 specimens from Maner, Islampur and Baikathpur (Fatwah), during September, November-December.

Lampides boeticus (Linn.) The pea-blue

5 specimens from Barh, Baikathpur and Patna city, during January-March.

Rapala iarbus sorya Kollar The Indian red flash

One specimen collected from Fatwah, during December.

Spindasis syama peguanus Moore The club silverline

One specimen from Kumrahar in Patna, during September.

S. vulcanus vulcanus Fabr. The common silverline

3 specimens from Maner and Kumrahar (Patna), during July, September and November.

Syntarucus plinius (Fabr.) The zebra blue

One specimen from Choti pahari in Patna, during December.

Tarucus callinara Butler The blue pierrot

2 specimens from Baikathpur (Fatwah), and Rampur (Patna), during August and November.

Zizina otis indica Murray The lesser grass-blue

BUTTERFLY FAUNA OF PATNA (BIHAR)

One specimen from Barh, during March.

Family PAPILIONIDAE

Atrophaneura aristolochiae aristolochiae (Fabr.) The common rose

One specimen from Maner, during September.

Papilio demoleus demoleus Linn. The lime butterfly

18 specimens during June-October and December.

P. polytes romulus Cramer The common mormon

3 specimens during March and October.

Family PIERIDAE

Subfamily Pierinae

Anaphaeis aurota aurota (Fabr.) The pioneer
14 specimens from Parev (Koilar), Maner; and Patna, during April, May and July.

Cepora nerissa phryne (Fabr.) The common gull

More than 40 specimens from Chandwa (Arrah), Parev (Koilar), Maner; and Patna, during January, March-May and July-December.

Delias eucharis (Drury) The common jezebel
4 specimens from Maner and Patna, during January and October-November.

Ixias marianne marianne (Cramer) The white orange tip

5 specimens from Parev (Koilar), Maner; and from Patna, during January, March and July-August.

I. pyrene kausala Moore The yellow orange tip-white

2 specimens (♀ ♀), during January.

I. pyrene sesia (Fabr.) The yellow orange tip
3 specimens during April and November.

Leptosia nina nina (Fabr.) The psyche
One specimen from Agamkuan in Patna, during February.

Pieris brassicae nepalensis Doubleday The large cabbage white

2 specimens from Barh, during March.

Valeria valeria anais (Lesson) The common wanderer

5 specimens during August and October-December.

Subfamily Coliadinae

Catopsilia crocale crocale (Cramer) The common emigrant

20 specimens from Maner and Patna, during May and August.

C. crocale pomona (Fabr.) The lemon emigrant

One specimen from Begampur (Patna city), during December.

C. pyranthe pyranthe (Linn.) The mottled emigrant

7 specimens from Konhara (Hajipur); and from Patna; during April and August-September.

Eurema brigitta rubella (Wallace) The small grass yellow

One specimen from Chaitola (Patna), during October. Unusually it was flying at night (Varshney & Nandi 1970).

E. hecabe contubernalis (Moore) The common grass yellow

More than 50 specimens from Arrah, Bihta, Hajipur, Barh, Baikathpur (Fatwah); and Patna, during January-April and June-December.

E. hecabe kana (Moore) The common grass yellow-wet season form

2 specimens from Baikathpur (Fatwah) and Begampur (Patna city), during July and September.

Family HESPERIIDAE

Badamia exclamationis (Fabr.) The brown awl

One specimen from Bakhtiarpur, during December.

Parnara guttatus bada Moore The straight swift

23 specimens from Arrah, Maner, Barh, Biharsarif, Fatwah, Hajipur; and Patna during June-July and September-November.

Pelopidas mathias mathias (Fabr.) The small branded swift

5 specimens from Barh, Islampur, Maner and Patna, during August-October.

Potanthus pseudomaesa pseudomaesa (Moore) The Indian dart

One specimen from Begumpur (Patna city), during September.

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